

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid comprises:

a) a first region which comprises a nucleic acid which encodes the transactivator of the tetracycline-regulated system (tTA) under the control of a first promoter which is a non-viral promoter, and

b) a second region which comprises a nucleic acid of interest under the control of a second promoter which is a tTA-sensitive promoter,

and wherein the two regions a) and b) are arranged in the same transcriptional orientation and the first promoter and the nucleic acid of interest are not from the same gene.

21. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 20, wherein the nucleic acid additionally comprises a third region c), which is arranged between the two regions a) and b) and which restricts transcriptional interference between regions a) and b).

22. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid according to claim 21, wherein the region c) comprises a transcription terminator.

23. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 20, wherein, in region a), the first promoter is a cell promoter which is constitutive and tissue-specific.

24. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 23, wherein the cell promoter is selected from the promoters of the 3-phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK), dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), elongation factor 1 a (EF1a), β actin, β -globin and myosin heavy chain a (MHCa) genes.

25. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 20, wherein, in region b), the nucleic acid of interest is a nucleic acid which encodes a protein or a polypeptide of interest.

26. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 25, wherein the protein or the polypeptide of interest is selected from neurotransmitters or their precursors or enzymes for synthesizing neurotransmitters, and trophic factors.

27. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 20, wherein, in region b), the promoter is a promoter which functions in mammalian cells.

28. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid comprises:

a) a first region which comprises a nucleic acid which encodes the transactivator of the tetracycline-regulated system (tTA) under the control of the promoter of the 3-phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK) gene, and

b) a second region which comprises a nucleic acid which encodes human tyrosine hydroxylase under the control of a minimal CMV promoter functionally coupled to from 1 to 10 sequences of a site for binding a tTA factor (tetOp),

c) a third region which comprises an upstream mouse sequence (UMS),
and wherein the two regions a) and b) are arranged in the same transcriptional orientation.

29. (Previously Presented) A vector which comprises a nucleic acid according to claim 20 or 28.

30. (Previously Presented) The vector according to claim 29, wherein the vector is a viral vector.

31. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell which comprises a vector according to claim 29.

32. (Previously Presented) The isolated cell according to claim 31, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

33. (Previously Presented) The isolated cell according to claim 32, wherein the cell is a nerve cell.

34. (Previously Presented) An isolated nerve cell comprising a recombinant adenovirus which comprises a nucleic acid according to claim 28

35. (Previously Presented) A composition which comprises cells according to claim 31.

36. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 22, wherein the transcription terminator is an upstream mouse sequence (UMS).

37. (Previously Presented) The vector according to claim 30, wherein said viral vector is an adenovirus.

38. (Currently Amended) A composition which comprises cells according to claim 34~~claim 24~~.